Irrigation projects in Maharashtra

147. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of pending irrigation projects in Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government propose to give Special Loan Assistance to Maharashtra complete pending irrigation projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Central Government have launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for accelerating implementation of on-going irrigation projects which are beyond the resource capacity of State Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amounts so far given to the State Government of Maharashtra under this programme for completing on-going irrigation projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are 56 major ongoing irrigation projects with latest estimated cost of Rs. 32,544 crore envisaging to create an irrigation potential of 3165 thousand hectare and 95 medium ongoing irrigation projects with latest estimated cost of Rs. 7152 crore envisaging to create an irrigation potential of 539 thousand hectare which are in various stages of construction in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) to (f) The Central Government, during 1996-1997, launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) for accelerating implementation of approved on-going major/medium irrigation projects which are beyond the resources capability of the States and are in an advanced stage of completion. The CLA is provided to the States on an year to year basis under the programme subject to the ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission for the year and the budget provision made for the project in the State Plan. The CLA has a Central and State share depending on the category of the State. A grant component has been introduced in the programme with effect from 1st April, 2004. The State of Maharashtra has been receiving CLA in the ratio of 4:1 (Centre : State) since 2002-03. The State Government of

Maharashtra since inception of the programme has been provided Rs. 739.092 crore as CLA upto January, 2005 for 23 major/medium on-going irrigation projects for their early completion. This also includes Rs. 9.585 crore released as grant during the year 2004-2005. There is no other programme for providing Special Loan Assistance to State of Maharashtra for completion of on-going irrigation projects.

Contaminated ground water

†148. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey conducted by the Central Ground Water Board reveals that about 23 crore people of the country are compelled to utilize contaminated ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to rid people of this contaminated water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No such survey has been conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB). However, studies conducted by CGWB have indicated sporadic instances of Fluoride and Arsenic contamination due to geogenic sources.

(c) and (d) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to formulate schemes to provide people with contamination free water. However, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has provided technical guidance to the States and has organized a number of mass awareness programmes to educate the people for the purpose. The CGWB also monitors ground water quality periodically to map the changes in it and apprises the State Governments of the same for taking" necessary remedial measures. It has also drilled exploratory wells tapping contamination free aquifeF zones and has handed over these wells to the State Governments for utilisation.

The Department of Drinking Water Supply, under the Ministry of Rural

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.